

he has contributed to so many people over his years of caring and service. I know I speak for all my colleagues in extending to him a heartfelt "thank you" and our best wishes to Michael, his wife, Judy, and their children Matthew, David and Rachel.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" ALLEN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William "Bill" Allen. Bill is leaving the House of Representatives after nearly 4 years of distinguished service to this institution as an attorney with the Office of House Employment Counsel. As an Associate Counsel in the Office of House Employment Counsel, Bill has provided legal advice and counsel on employment issues to at least 124 current Members of Congress, 18 House Committees, the House Officers, and the United States Capitol Police Board. Bill's clients can attest to his tremendous intelligence, legal prowess, creativity, and wit. In addition to his many other contributions, in November 2005, Bill presented oral arguments on the scope of the Speech or Debate Clause before a rare en banc panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

A Connecticut native and son of Frederick E. Allen and the late Evelyn M. Allen, Bill was raised in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Following his junior year of high school, Bill spent a week as part of a fellowship program sponsored by the Connecticut Congressional delegation. As a true New Englander, Bill grew to be a diehard Boston Red Sox fan and his faith was finally rewarded in October 2004 when the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

A rare "Triple Hoo", Bill earned his Bachelor of Science, Masters in Business Administration, and Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia. While at the University of Virginia, Bill represented the Engineering School, the Darden School, and the Law School on the University's renowned student-run Honor Committee. Bill also served as an officer in the Raven Society and the Virginia Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society.

Bill is returning to private practice as a Senior Counsel at the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., where he worked from 1996 to 2002 on various class actions involving Title VII and the Fair Labor Standards Act. In private practice, Bill intends to resume his pro bono activity in the field of immigration law. While at the firm, Bill averaged over 100 hours of pro bono work per year and, in 2001, was named Akin Gump's Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year for the firm's D.C. office. Bill's pro bono representations included obtaining political asylum for a Sudanese national who had been repeatedly kidnapped and tortured by the Sudanese government and obtaining United States citizenship for an Ethiopian national.

The U.S. House of Representatives would like to express its deepest gratitude to Bill Allen for his invaluable service to this institution. Bill has worked tirelessly to provide House Employing offices with excellent legal

advice and support. We wish Bill tremendous success in all of his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of expanding critical stem cell research and to urge the Senate to take action on the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (S. 471).

One year ago, on May 24, 2005, the House of Representatives passed the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810) by a vote of 238–194. I voted for this legislation because it increases funding for stem cell research, offering hope and the possibility of a cure for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and terminal illness. H.R. 810 also provides for the implementation of ethical guidelines to govern this research.

H.R. 810 would help to make significant advances toward finding a cure for currently incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and spinal cord injuries. Furthermore, expanding this research would increase our understanding of the abnormal cell growth that occurs in cancer and birth defects, which would help create a safer and more efficient way of developing effective drugs.

For millions of individuals and their families, stem cell research provides hope for a life without the stress and suffering that accompany these serious health-related conditions. Expanding funding for this science is an effective way to cultivate the remarkable potential of a technology which could increase our understanding of causes, improve the effectiveness of treatments, and advance our ability to find cures for a wide range of debilitating diseases and other conditions.

Unfortunately, despite widespread, bipartisan support for this legislation, including over 200 patient groups, universities, scientific societies, more than 75 national and local newspapers, and 80 Nobel Laureates, the Senate has yet to bring it to the Floor for a vote. It is time for the Senate to act to expand stem cell research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the importance of continuing efforts to improve the quality of life for all Americans by implementing legislation to expand stem cell research.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK HERITAGE STAMP SERIES AND HONORING CLARENCE IRVING

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during the week of the World Philatelic Exhibition being held at the Washington Convention Center, to recognize the history of the Black Heritage Stamp Series and to honor

my former constituent, Chairman and Founder of the Black American Heritage Foundation, Mr. Clarence Irving.

In 1976, Mr. Irving conceived the idea of commemorating Black American Women on U.S. Postage Stamps. His proposal was that either of two women, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune or Mary Church Terrell be so commemorated. This proposal was presented to the Honorable Joseph P. Addabbo who represented my district at the time and the initiative became part of the activities surrounding the bicentennial celebration of the United States.

Two years later, the U.S. Postal Service created a completely new series commemorating Black Americans, with Harriet Tubman chosen as the first historical figure to start the "Black Heritage USA Series". Each year another stamp appears in this commemorative series honoring a prominent African American figure.

Today, at 82, Clarence Irving still heads the Black American Heritage Foundation, organizing or supporting African American art initiatives throughout the country. I am grateful for his determination in realizing his vision and acknowledge him as the "Father of the Black Heritage Stamp Series".

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. AMY WOOLF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in appreciation of an outstanding leader in the education field. I am pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Ms. Amy Woolf, an educator at Edgewood High School in Harford County.

Ms. Woolf attended SUNY Geneseo where she earned her degree in Biology and Secondary Education Certification in Biology and General Science. She went on to further her education at Towson University earning a Master's Degree in Health in 1998 and an Administrative Certificate in 2003.

She has been very active in Edgewood High School. She is the advisor to the Honor Society; a tennis coach; a member of the School Improvement Team; a member of both the Honors and Eligibility Committees; a student teacher supervisor; a presenter at staff developments; and a member of the Faculty Advisory Council.

Ms. Woolf wears many hats while teaching at Edgewood High School. She plays a vital role in the education her students receive by her involvement in the General Curriculum Committee, the Forensic Science Curriculum and the Curriculum Committee for Math-Science Magnet. She is also a Biology Curriculum writer.

James Garfield said, "Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained." I believe that education is the key to success in life. We need teachers who love their jobs and encourage their students to thrive in a competitive environment. Ms. Woolf is one of those teachers.

The best thing teachers can do is give their students something to think about outside of

the classroom, and that doesn't mean homework. A successful teacher will place a thought in the minds of their students and after a while the student will be able to pull something great out of that thought. Ms. Woolf achieves this greatness with her students. Her involvement in the school is proof of how much she cares about the quality of education the Edgewood High School students receive. She is a great leader in her field and deserves acknowledgement of her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today in thanking Ms. Amy Woolf for providing her students, and the future of our Nation with the best possible gift she can, Education.

IN HONOR OF NELSON AND BORDEN MCGAHEE—30 YEARS OF MARRIAGE AND SERVICE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a couple from my district, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson McGahee of Columbus, Georgia, who on May 15th of this year celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

Nelson served his country in the United States Army before beginning a career as a civil servant at Fort Benning in Columbus. He has continued to serve his community as an active member of the Columbus Jaycees and the Columbus Airport Authority.

His wife, Borden Black McGahee, has made her career in broadcast journalism. She grew up as a self-professed "Army brat," and became an avid music lover at the tender age of 3 years old while attending the opera with her mother, a season ticket holder. This love of music brought her to the radio, where she became the news director of an Alabama radio station—a unique position at the time for a woman in Alabama. Upon moving to Columbus, she soon moved to television, where she served as the news director for all three of the affiliate news stations in the city. She left journalism to work in public relations for the Muscogee County School District and currently does freelance writing for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer and also for Columbus and the Valley Magazine.

Throughout their three decades together, the McGahees have enjoyed Nelson's passion for all things railroad. Nelson's great-grandfather was a railroad employee, which sparked in Nelson a lifelong interest in trains. Their Columbus home is filled with railroad memorabilia from a variety of historic rail lines.

In tribute to this shared interest, the couple has chosen to spend their 30th anniversary on a train ride in a car filled with history. They secured a ride from Jacksonville, Florida to Washington, D.C. aboard a 1930 Pullman car pulled by Amtrak. In addition to its age, this car has had its share of famous passengers. Former presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton have all taken trips in this car. Past presidential candidates, Senators JOHN KERRY and John Edwards, and singer Aretha Franklin, have also traveled on this car. Because of its illustrious passengers, the car has been fitted with Secret Service-approved armor plating and bullet-proof windows, which lie hidden behind the tastefully restored antique features.

Five friends have joined the McGahees on this voyage, which will include a stop at "Old Ebbitt Grill," a legendary restaurant in the heart of Washington, D.C. This restaurant has served nearly every major American politician throughout its 150-year history.

Nelson and Borden McGahee are wonderful people who have shared a wonderful marriage. Their love for each other is inspirational, and surely their next 30 years will be as passionate as the first. This Southwest Georgia couple has chosen a distinctively American way to celebrate their anniversary and we wish them nothing but happiness as they proceed full-steam ahead into their future.

THE SIXTH DISTRICT'S AMERICAN IDOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in the biggest electoral debate since the Bush-Gore presidential election in Florida in 2000, people are still talking about the selection of this year's American Idol from the television program with the same name. With no disrespect intended toward this year's winner, Taylor Hicks, most people think this year's American Idol should have been Chris Daughtry of McLeansville, NC.

I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that I am extremely biased in this debate because Chris Daughtry is a resident of the Sixth District of North Carolina. And it would have been the second time that a town in the Sixth District produced the winning Idol, since previous winner, Fantasia, hailed from High Point, NC. That being said, most online polls, fan blogs, numerous web sites, and general talk about town all hailed Chris Daughtry as the next American Idol.

Most people know that my musical tastes run more towards traditional bluegrass music, so I am not a good judge of what is hot in the rock and pop music scenes. But I do know politics, and from everything I could learn, Chris Daughtry appeared to be the fan favorite. While I will not call for Congress to investigate this Idol election process, those of us who reside in the Sixth District of North Carolina will always be convinced that our guy really won—sort of like fans of Al Gore in 2000.

Oh well, we are proud to say that we are the home of the real American Idol, Chris Daughtry of McLeansville, NC.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMAN BERMES' OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE EVACUEES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Norman Bermes and his wife Frances. Mr. Bermes immediately mobilized private resources in East Fort Worth to respond to the desperate needs of the evacuees who arrived in the city, escaping the ravages

of Hurricane Katrina when it impacted the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005.

As the first evacuees began to enter the city, utilizing whatever means they could access and utilizing what limited resources they could carry, Mr. Bermes read the reports and newscasts and was not only early to understand the plight these individuals faced, but was quick to turn a compassionate concern into action.

With the assistance of his wife, Frances, and other friends and associates from East Fort Worth, Mr. Bermes quickly organized a community effort to coordinate volunteers, space and donations to provide for the deep needs of the visitors arriving in the city in a steady stream from the Gulf Coast.

By working through area churches and his network in the East Fort Worth Business Association, Mr. Bermes addressed the immediate need for food, clothing and housing for the evacuees.

His efforts secured access to several unoccupied individual apartments in the Woodhaven community. Regular communication through email, the Greater Meadowbrook News and fliers distributed through the community assisted in providing toiletries, paper, canned goods, clothing and kitchen necessities to allow the evacuees to reestablish daily lives after arriving, frequently, with only the clothes on their backs.

Mr. Bermes quickly recognized that beyond this need the evacuees would quickly need employment and other long-term solutions to enable them to regain their self-sufficiency. Continued efforts on his part and with volunteers established a Jobs Resource Center in one of the apartment units, equipped with internet access for email and online searches. Additionally, they were able to provide resume creation assistance, counseling for interview skills and a jobs posting effort to match local employers with a new and anxious labor pool.

Practical creativity allowed Mr. Bermes and his volunteer assistance to press through the systemic challenges and surprises, including warehousing and distributing a truckload of donated mattresses and the thousands of other donations where they could be utilized by those in need.

By Thanksgiving, when they held the Cajun Thanksgiving Party for all of the evacuees, Mr. Bermes had mobilized resources and individuals to provide for over 50 families and 140 individuals. In doing so he touched engendered a sense of community among the newest residents of East Fort Worth and showed the warmth and compassion of North Texas.

I am honored to represent Mr. Bermes and the family and friends who know him and his compassion that made such a difference in providing hope, dignity and encouragement in the aftermath of such a tragedy on a scale our country has never before experienced.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. KERRIE BAUER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in appreciation of a fine educator from Joppatowne High School. Mathematics Department Chair, Kerrie Bauer is worthy of great recognition. She is an inspiration